(e) and (f) No, Sir. The main reason for surrender of landline connections is increased usage of mobile phones. Thus, the customers surrendering landline connections are taking mobile phones from BSNL and MTNL as well as other private operators. Total customer base of BSNL and MTNL is also increasing every year.

Permission for IPO

†1343. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that BSNL has sought approval for IPO from Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision being taken by Government on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) to (c) Sir, BSNL Board in its 113th Board meeting held on 25th July, 2008, after considering all the pros and cons of listing and in order to strengthen Company's claim for conferment of Navratna status decided that the Company should get listed.

The Government is considering to offer part of its equity shareholding in BSNL by an offer for sale to the public due to following reasons:—

- will facilitate BSNL to get Navratna status.
- will be useful for improving the image of BSNL.
- will promote growth of BSNL.

Efficiency of Speed Post service

1344. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the efficiency of the Speed Post service has gone down in recent past;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Speed Post service is unable to keep up with the service offered by private operators;

(c) the reasons for the inability of the post office to render a simple service; and

(d) the steps that are proposed to improve the record of Speed Post service and other services which the post office offers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Some of the steps taken to improve speed post and other services are the web-based Track and Trace of speed post articles, introduction of Speed Post One India One rate, reduction in local speed post charges, induction of technology for a more effective booking and delivery of services, regular training of staff, introduction of instant Money Order and leasing of freighter aircrafts for transmission of mails.

Number portability

1345. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public have been demanding Number Portability for a long time for their mobile phones;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has given an assurance that number portability would start in April, 2009;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay in number portability facility all over the country for mobile phone users; and

(d) the steps proposed to urgently implement the number portability facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended introduction of Mobile Number Portability (MNP) to Government after consulting stakeholders.

(b) No, Sir. However, introduction of MNP in "A" circles was to be reviewed in April, 2008 as per the press release dated 12.11.2007 of the Department of Telecom.

(c) The said recommendations of TRAI were in principle accepted by the Government.

Based on the Government decision on introduction of MNP, TRAI submitted its report for draft RFP (Request for Proposal). Thereafter, for grant of license for MNP service, the guidelines was issued on 1st September, 2008 and a tender was floated on 25th November, 2008. Based on the said tender, Licenses to successful bidders for provision of MNP Service in the two zones (covering the entire country) has been signed on 17th April, 2009.

As per the conditions of the License Agreement for MNP Service, MNP is to be implemented in Delhi, Mumbai, Maharashtra and Gujarat Service Areas of Zone-1 and Kolkata, Tamil Nadu including Chennai, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka Services Areas of Zone-2 within six months of the award of the license in rest of the service areas within one year of the award of the license by the respective MNP Service Providers.

(d) On 30th June, 2009. TRAI has issued a draft Regulations on MNP for seeking comments of stakeholders. For smooth and early implementation of MNP Service, the status is reviewed periodically by the Department of Telecommunications.